Numb 166.

The Female Tatler.

Written by a Society of Ladies.

Ridentem dicere verum quid vetat ?

From Wednesday March 15, to Friday March 17, 1710.

Emilia's Day.

WE that diſtract our Minds and exhauſt our Inventions in ſerving the Publick Voluntary, have undertaken the hardeſt Task of any Mortal Scriblers, confin'd as it were, to ſtrike Fire every time we ſtand in need of it, and not permitted to ſpread the Embers we find remaining of the Brightneſs of others. 'Tho you muſt give me leave to deviate from this as often as I ſhall find my ſelf inclin'd or neceſſitated, ſince it is allow'd we are come too late after Seven Thouſand Years, that Humane Thought has travers'd the flowry Paths of Knowledge, to pluck one Daiſy that has not been worn before, much leſs a Roſe. Scandal, which is at preſent the very Life of the Preſs, that without it wou'd be Still and Motionleſs as Death, can no more than follow in the Tract of Antient Malice, ſhade Good Actions with ſuſpicions of their Motive, and wreſt Honeſt Meanings to their own black purpoſe; leſſen Virtues and magnify Miſtakes, which has been the practice of Envy and Diſcontent, ſince they firſt gain'd Admiſſion in Splenatick Minds: Then for Praiſe, does it not ſtill flow in the uſual Channel of Intereſt? 'Tho if any Topick will admit of Innovation, 'tis certainly this of Commendation, which I preſume all will agree with me has hitherto been ſparingly handled, and never attempted but from the powerful impulſe of Self-Love. I have been deſigning ſometime to turn over the vaſt Products of Wit, to find, if poſſible, one Panygerick that confeſs'd not in its Dedication, this to be its great Beginning and End: But finding it a Truth Univerſally ſubſcrib'd to, I'll ſave my ſelf the Labour, and take the firſt Opportunity of ſhowing my ſelf a diſintereſted Admirer of Worth wherever I find it, tho in an Enemy. In the mean time I proceed to Record what paſſes within my Sphere of Intelligence, and Comment upon it according to my Notion of Right and Wrong.

'Well known upon *Change* was *Fernando*, a Mer'chant reputed Rich, he had a Wife that affectionate'ly Lov'd him, and endeavour'd to make his Home 'his Paradice, by an equal Prudence and Chearfulneſs 'that accompanied all her Words and Actions. She 'for many Years had receiv'd the Grateful Return that 'was due to her Merit; but Happineſs is Tranſitory, '*Fernando* grew of a ſudden dangerouſly Melancholy; 'he ſeem'd to neglect Life, and ſought for Solitude to 'indulge his uneaſineſs of Temper; his Nights were 'tedious for want of Sleep, and he had loſt the Power 'to Eat: His Wife obſerv'd it with true Concern, 'tho' concealing it for ſometime, as well as ſhe cou'd, 'She ſought to divert the Effect, rather than too nicely 'enquire into the Cauſe, which ſhe almoſt fear'd to 'know: But finding the Ill increaſe, and that *Fer'nando* every Day grew worſe, ſhe took the handſom'eſt Opportunity ſhe cou'd of timing her Friendly 'Curioſity, and beg'd to know the Cauſe of this ſtrange 'Alteration. He endeavour'd at firſt to Evade the 'Matter, laid it on Indiſpoſition of Body, but doubled 'her deſire to know, by conjuring her to ask no more. 'She aſſur'd him, whatever was in her Power ſhe 'wou'd offer with Joy to his Repoſe, and therefore 'wou'd not leave him till he had given her all thoſe 'Cares that had ſo long prey'd upon his Mind: Alas! '(cry'd he) my Griefs are not of a kind to be reliev'd, 'Confuſion, Poverty, and Contempt break in upon 'me, and nothing but Death can ſet me free from the 'Inſupportable Miſchiefs: Much rather let it be mine, '(anſwer'd She) but tell me at once, and do not tor'ture me with unneceſſary Suſpence, the moſt exqui'ſite of all Pains; let me know the worſt, and I can't 'help thinking there may be ſome Expedient found, 'to remove or leſſen this Inquietude.—— My Dear, '(ſays he) I will comply, tho' with the utmoſt Re'luctance a Man can feel; I am ruined, my Credit is 'vaniſhing, Loſſes at Home and Abroad, which I have 'taken Pains to conceal from you, have ſunk me to 'the loweſt Ebb of Fortune, and there is but one poſ'ſibility of being ſav'd, and that ſo deſperate, that 'ſhou'd you have Goodneſs enough to Conſent to, 'I never can, and therefore to what purpoſe ſhou'd 'I name it; you have prob'd a Wound Incurable, 'and only inform'd your ſelf of my Inevitable De'ſtruction. Tell me (anſwer'd ſhe) that One Poſſibi'lity, that's it I am impatient to know, and do not 'fatigue me with delay: Take it then, (added *Fer'nando*) You know *Lavra*, She has a great Eſtate, and 'prodigious Sums of Money by her, ſhe Regards me 'with a Peculiarity I cannot miſinterpret; if ſhe 'thought you Dead, I know I might with eaſe be 'Maſter of her Fortunes, which only can retrieve 'mine; think with what Regret you have wreſted 'this from me, and forgive at leaſt the Wretch you 'muſt not preſerve.

'This was unſuſpected Thunder to the Unhappy 'Liſt'ner, Grief, Shame, Jealouſy and Reſentment 'aſſaulted her Mind at once; She withdrew without 'the Power of Speech, and left *Fernando* wholly at a 'loſs what to expect from his monſtrous Propoſition. 'When ſhe found herſelf alone, ſhe gave way to her 'Sorrow, and after ſome Difficulties in beating down 'her Paſſions, ſhe conſider'd that he Lov'd no longer, 'if he had, this ſtrange Suggeſtion had not been men'tion'd

'sion'd as a Poſſibility, and to keep him Hers unwillingly and overwhelm'd with Misfortunes, was what 'she wou'd not endeavour: Being come to this Reſolution, ſhe return'd to *Fernando*, and with a Sad, 'but Calm Air, deſir'd him to go with her to their 'Country-Houſe, where ſhe wou'd take her Bed as 'Sick, and wait an Opportunity when he cou'd carry 'her by Night to ſome Convenient Retreat, where, 'if he wou'd allow her a Competency, ſhe wou'd 'paſs the remainder of her Days, and leave him to 'the purſuit of his better Fortune; he might with 'eaſe report her Dead, and then there wou'd be no 'obſtacle ſhe had power to remove: He expreſs'd a 'great Concern to be drove to ſuch Extremities, yet 'took Care to obey her in what he wiſh'd; and as ſoon 'as it was probable ſhe might Die, She was convey'd 'to an obſcure Village in *Yorkſhire*, where a new 'Name ſecur'd her from the leaſt Apprehenſion of 'ever being known, and a Mock-Funeral and Feign'd 'Widower amuz'd the Eyes of the World.

'*Fernando* was not miſtaken in *Lawra*, he ask'd and 'obtain'd, and poſſeſs'd the Wealth he coveted: Fifty 'Pound a Year he ſent the *Poor Solitaire*, and believ'd 'himſelf not Juſt alone but Generous. Three Years 'elaps'd, when he conſider'd this Expence as needleſs, 'he had obtain'd her Conſent for what he had done, 'and therefore ſhe muſt be Silent: She cou'd not ex'claim to the World without betraying how far ſhe 'had aſſiſted his Guilt, and that he believ'd ſhe wou'd 'ſooner Die than diſcover. Thus Sordid and Secure 'in his Ingrateful Heart, he took no farther Care to 'ſend her a Subſiſtance, but left her to get or want 'her Bread, as Sickneſs, Sorrow, and Neceſſity ſhou'd 'decide; Poverty is that Gygantick Evil that ſubdues 'the Proudeſt Spirits, and levels the Generous with 'the Baſe, the Delicate with the Courſe; Want makes 'all Conditions equal as the Grave it leads to. She 'bore as long as it was poſſible, aſham'd and vex'd at 'her Romantick Folly, that had reduc'd her to ſuch 'Miſery, but able to endure no longer, ſhe made the 'beſt of her way to Town, and at an hour when ſhe 'might conclude he was upon *Change*, ſhe went to '*Lawra*, who immediately knew her, tho' chang'd 'greatly with her Misfortunes, and fitted to confirm 'at firſt ſight the Error ſhe had liv'd in, being but 'the Ghoſt of what ſhe was. *Lawra* cry'd out, but 'was ſoon undeceived, the other calmly aſſuring her 'that ſhe was Alive, and was come to own her Fault 'in ever conſenting to be thought otherwiſe.

'Here She told her by what Art he work'd her to 'his purpoſe, and what Reward ſhe had met from 'his Care. *Lawra* was Generous and abhor'd Ingratitude; ſhe regarded the Wife as one that had been 'tempted to a good-natur'd Fault: She conſider'd that 'nothing but Inſupportable Injuries cou'd have urg'd 'her to this Diſcovery, and that now ſhe took the 'nobleſt way, ſeeking Redreſs from her, and not ex'poſing to the World a Villain, leaſt ſhe ſhou'd blaſt 'the Guiltleſs. All theſe Thoughts joyn'd to ſet *Fer'nando* in a true Light, and render him the object of 'her Hate and Scorn, as he was already of the other. 'She deſir'd her to arm her Soul to ſee and upbraid 'him, and aſſur'd her ſhe wou'd aſſiſt her in her Juſt 'Puniſhment of his Baſeneſs. *Fernando* little ſuſpecting his Welcome, returned, but was the moſt con'founded of Men, when he ſaw thoſe two whom he 'believed ſo far divided, prepared to receive him: 'As he was Conſcious he deſerv'd Dumb with his 'Guilt, he was compell'd to hear thoſe hateful Truths 'they had to Charge him with: By turns they accus'd 'him, the firſt with his Ingratitude, and the laſt with 'his Treachery; for ſhe knew Avarice was the Ori'ginal of all, his Circumſtances never being in that 'deſperate Condition he had falſely repreſented them. 'They convinc'd him, that *England* was no Place for 'him to ſtay in, and that if he made not all poſſible 'haſte to quit it, he ſhou'd find himſelf the Jeſt of 'Youth and Contempt of Age; nor ſhou'd his Life 'be ſafe, 'twas in vain to Contend, he was in their 'Power; therefore he comply'd, and brib'd them with 'his Abſence to ſpare his Raputation. He went over 'to *Holland*, and there by his own Eſtate and Effects 'may grow Rich as he pleaſes, while the two Ladies 'enjoy a perfect Friendſhip, and live in uninterrupted 'Peace, *Lawra* having prevail'd on the Unfortunate 'to partake of her Plenty, and let all Things be in 'Common between them.

Thus what has been the Ruin of many Friendſhips, has been the Foundation of this, which begun in Generous Minds, is not in danger of Decay; they had both their Faults which drew on their Wrongs, and each have contributed to the others Injury, tho' without ever deſigning them ſuch, for had the Wife been maintain'd, *Lawra* might have liv'd ſtill in Guiltleſs Ignorance, and had not ſhe let him obſerve her Eſteem for him, it cou'd not have enter'd into his Thoughts to have attempted ſuch a Crime.

† *The* Vintner *near* Shandois-ſtreet, *who has Married a Lady with a large Eſtate in* Terra Incognita, *is deſired not to aſcribe his Succeſs either to his Perſon or Underſtanding, but to the Paſſion of his Wife and the Goodneſs of her* Duena, *and correcting Vanity to bear his Fortune Modeſtly.*

†‡† *Mr.* Burgamot *is deſired to ſend in thoſe Hints he has by him, towards the finiſhing his Picture, and whatever may give Light or Ornament to his Hiſtory, which I am Writing with all imaginable Care: Let them be left at Mrs.* Baldwin's, *and they ſhall be faithfully inſerted to both our Satisfactions.*

ADVERTISEMENTS.

To be Printed by Subſcription,

*** The Life and Warlike Actions of the now pretended Iſaac Bickerſtaff, Eſq; Author of the Tatler, wherein will be ſet forth all Matters relating to that worthy Squire, with the true Memoirs of his Siſter Jenny: All Gentlemen therefore at home and abroad, who have any Papers relating to this Affair, are deſired to ſend them Poſt-Free, to Bernard Lintott between the Two Temple Gates in Fleet-ſtreet, and that with all ſpeed, that they may be Publiſhed by the Time he delivers out his Lucubrations, A Number of which will be printed on a large Character, and Fine Royal Paper. Propoſals will be publiſh'd at a proper Time. Where only may be had the true Art of getting pretty Children.

‡†‡ The Royal Propheteſs: Or, Iſraels Triumph over Jablin King of Hazor. An Heroick Poem Written after the manner of the Antients. Sold by Dryden Leach in ElliotsCourt in the Little Old Baily. Pr. 6 d.

Lately Publiſh'd,

†‡† Europe a Slave unleſs England Now break Her Chains Diſcovering the Grand Deſigns of the French Popiſh Part, in England for ſeveral Years laſt paſt. Sold by D. Leach in Elliot's Court, in the Little Old Baily. Price 6 d.

Pills for the Eye ſight, experienced for many years to be of peculiar and notedEfficacy, in carrying off all Humours, Inflamations, Redneſs, &c. which fall upon the Eyes and occaſion Dimneſs, weakneſs of Sight and Blindneſs. Eye-waters and ſuch like outward Applications may do much to ſome by palliating,(tho to many they do hurt) but theſe Pills carry off the Cauſe, and preſerve the ſight ſtrong and clear; and the Eyes free from all Defluxious Humours, &c. whatſoever; they are very ſafe and Friendly, may be taken by the weakeſt Peaſon at any Seaſonof the Year. They that take them will have cauſe to recommend them. Sold only at Mr Spooners at the Golden Half Moon in Lemon-ſtreet in Goodman's Fields, at 3 s. 6 d. the Box with Directions.

*** The Charitable Surgeon: Or the beſt Remedies for the worſt Maladies, reveal'd; altogether without Mercury, and wholly new in Method and Practice, whereinboth Sexes may with privacy and ſmall Charge, without any other Medicine, or being expoſed to Quacks, cure themſelves of that Diſtemper, which, (if neglected) are dangerous as well as Ignominious. By T C. Surgeon. Sold by E.Curl Bookſeller, removed to the Dial andBible againſt St Dunſtan's Church inFleet-ſtreet, Price 1 s.

AN Incomparable Beautifying Cream for the Face, Neck, and Hands, takes away all Freckles, Spots, Pimples Wrinkles, Roughneſs, Scurf, Morphew, Yellowneſs, Sun-burning, renders the Skin admirably Clear, Fair and Beautiful, has an excellen-pretty Scent, is very ſafe and harmleſs, and vaſtly Tranſcends all other things, for it truly nouriſhes the Skin, making inſtantly look Plump-Freſh, Smooth, and Delicately Fair, tho before Wrinkled and Diſcolour red. Sold only at Mr Lawrences Toyſhop at the Griffin the corner o the Poultry near Cheapſide, at 2 s. 6 d. the Gallipot, with Directions.

Sold by *A. Baldwin* at the *Oxford Arms* in *Warwick-Lane.*